

TRIAL OF SIX MONTHS

Surgeon in Command of a Naval Vessel.

GETTING THE SHIP READY

Efforts to Obtain Sailing Master and Merchant Crew.

MR. HALE PRAISES BROWNSON

Declares That He Has Acted With Courage and Upholds His Action.

The orders assigning Surgeon Charles F. Stokes to the command of the hospital ship Relief are expected to be issued very soon, it has been definitely decided by Secretary Metcalf to detail him to that duty. With that end in view an effort will be made to obtain a merchant crew and master for the vessel. No doubt whatever is felt as to the success of such effort. In that event the objection to having a surgeon in command of naval men not attached to the medical corps will be obviated.

Secretary Metcalf is authority for the statement that in the unexpected event that it is found impossible to man the Relief with a merchant crew, the enlisted force of the navy will be drawn on to fill the complement, and a line officer will be put in command of the hospital ship, leaving Surgeon Stokes simply in charge of the hospital on the ship and the hospital force proper.

Will Be an Experiment.

Though the ship is practically ready for service, there are a number of things to be done to put her in the best of shape, which will take probably until the 1st of February. The scheme of having a medical officer command the Relief, with a merchant master and a merchant crew, Secretary Metcalf says is to have a trial for at least six months, and if the experiment proves satisfactory then the plan of having surgeons in absolute command of hospital ships will be a permanent feature of naval administration.

Admiral Brownson's relinquishment of his position as chief of the bureau of navigation, which will result in a considerable loss of pay to the officer. Being entirely without duty and relegated to the retired list, his income will be diminished in the first place by the loss of 25 per cent of his pay of an admiral on the active list, namely \$7,500 a year. Also he will no longer receive the allowance to an active officer of his grade of \$1,500 a year for quarters and \$500 for heat and light. It so happens, however, that Admiral Brownson is a man of independent means and able to disregard financial considerations in taking his stand as the champion of the line in the present battle with the staff. As a retired officer he will receive \$4,253 a year.

A Precedent Found.

Staff officers of the navy have discovered a precedent for placing one of their kind in command of a ship. It is true that this precedent was found in the case of the Relief, which was placed in the hands of a medical officer. The precedent was found in the case of the Relief, which was placed in the hands of a medical officer. The precedent was found in the case of the Relief, which was placed in the hands of a medical officer.

Chairman Hale's View.

Senator Hale, chairman of the Senate committee on naval affairs, says regarding the resignation of Admiral Brownson: "I think that Admiral Brownson has with great courage and an extraordinary amount of energy, courage and energy in his resignation. I have always sustained the staff officers in their fight for positive rank and command. I think that Admiral Brownson has with great courage and an extraordinary amount of energy, courage and energy in his resignation. I have always sustained the staff officers in their fight for positive rank and command. I think that Admiral Brownson has with great courage and an extraordinary amount of energy, courage and energy in his resignation. I have always sustained the staff officers in their fight for positive rank and command."

In Interests of Discipline.

When asked for his reasons for the position taken, Senator Hale replied: "They are entirely in the interests of discipline. Think what might happen if the command of the vessels should be turned over to a chaplain or even to a paymaster, and it is just as reasonable to put the crews of the vessels under the charge of those officers as it is to place them under the command of a surgeon. Evidently Admiral Brownson recognizes this fact, and being a man of character and decision, he did not hesitate to resign his position when, as the active head of the bureau of navigation, his view of the law and of the best policy in the interest of the service was overruled. He will not lose anything by his manly course, either in the navy or with the public."

JUDGE WILFLEY COMING.

To Answer Alleged Charges of Improper Conduct at Shanghai.

AT PINE KNOT, VA

PRESIDENT ENJOYS FIRST HUNT FOR WILD TURKEY.

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va., December 28.—For the first time since he spent a fortnight in the canyons of northern Louisiana in October President Roosevelt shouldered a gun yesterday afternoon and went in quest of not-bear-but-the-elusive wild turkey. With "Uncle Dick" McDaniel, the faithful colored servant at Pine Knot, as guide, a start from Pine Knot was made at 2 o'clock directly after lunch was served. The President was mounted on one of the best stallions owned by Wilmer. The scene of the hunt was nearly five miles southeast of Pine Knot, on a mountain spur across Hardware river.

Just what success the President met with could not be learned, as he had not been seen to pass Glendower up to 6 o'clock. That hour the telephone exchange closed at that point.

Assistance Secretary to the President

McGraw and Secret Service Guard Sloan, who left for Pine Knot yesterday to consult with the President, after receiving a telegram from the White House, returned to Charlottesville today and went at once to the telegraph office with a message to the White House from the President.

Neither would state the nature of the matter

that required the President's attention, nor would they say what luck the President had on his hunt yesterday. A telephone message from Glendower states that the President was seen out driving this morning with Mrs. Roosevelt.

Astonished the Driver.

In his ride over to Pine Knot from North Garden Thursday afternoon the President astonished the driver by alighting when only half of the journey had been completed and "footing it" the remaining distance—five miles. Accompanying the President was Kermit, the President's pet, who was with him when he was shot.

Yesterdays morning the President

amused himself by watching the beagles from the White House kennels chase rabbits in the hedge fields near Pine Knot. Dr. Rixey and Kermit had their guns with them and bagged several hares. The clouds of the morning disappeared and as there had been a slight drop in temperature, the indications were that the President would have another good day today to spend in the open.

Carew, accompanied by Dr. Rixey

and Mr. Joseph W. Brown, went on a drive yesterday afternoon on the splendid macadam road leading to Green mountain.

THE JERSEY MYSTERY

DEATH OF UNKNOWN WOMAN IS STILL UNSOLVED.

Special Dispatch to The Star.
NEWARK, N. J., December 28.—The "Lamp Black Swamp" mystery, involving the death of the woman whose nude body was found in a pool near Harrison, seemed no nearer solution today than it was on Thursday, when the body was taken from the water. Not only are the police completely in the dark as to the identity of the woman and the person or persons who killed her, but they do not even know the cause of the victim's death. Three small boys looking around the scene of the crime came upon a brooch pin near where one-half of the woman's jacket was found. The pin was a mother-of-pearl affair about an inch and a half long and three-quarters of an inch wide. On it was the letter "S" formed with a small gold wire. The brooch was turned over to the police.

The body was positively identified

by another man, who said he had seen the woman in Newark on Christmas eve. His description of the woman before he saw her was given up all hope of her identification. The new identifier said he was Thomas Flannigan, an elevator man in Bamberger's dry goods store on Broad street, Newark. The woman, he said, entered his car about 8 o'clock on Tuesday evening. She rode up and down with him once and then asked him if she might remain in the car for a while, as she had an appointment to meet a man there. He agreed and she rode up and down until 9:30 o'clock. Then she said she had given up all hope of her identification. The new identifier said he was Thomas Flannigan, an elevator man in Bamberger's dry goods store on Broad street, Newark. The woman, he said, entered his car about 8 o'clock on Tuesday evening. She rode up and down with him once and then asked him if she might remain in the car for a while, as she had an appointment to meet a man there. He agreed and she rode up and down until 9:30 o'clock. Then she said she had given up all hope of her identification.



HOLIDAY ANXIETY.

BLACK HAND DEVILTRY

FIRE AN EXAMPLE OF PERSISTENCE TO REACH PREY.

Special Dispatch to The Star.
NEW YORK, December 28.—In a fire which took place this morning in the five-story tenement at 5 Rivington street the police believe they see an example of the persistence with which the Black Hand attacks to the trail once it has picked out a victim to be plucked. The fire, which originated in the cellar, was discovered by Philip O'Brien, a fire patrolman, stationed at 3 Rivington street, where a small blaze occurred several nights ago.

Insistent Letters Sent Victim.

Salvatore has read many accounts in the newspapers of other barbers who, threatened in similar fashion, had places of business blown up because they did not accede to the blackmailers' demands, but he declined to be led. The letters grew more insistent. Still no money. Then the inner circle of the New York dynamiters held a meeting at which it was resolved that it was time for the usual visiting card of the order to be left at the barber's door. The chief house destroyer dropped the bomb and the entire front of the barber's establishment was scattered to the four winds. That was about two years ago.

HUGHES BUSY WITH MESSAGE.

New York Legislature to Meet Next Wednesday, January 1.

Special Dispatch to The Star.
ALBANY, N. Y., December 28.—The legislature will convene at 11 o'clock next Wednesday. Then Gov. Hughes' second annual message to the legislature will be read. The governor remained at the executive mansion today working on the message. He expects to complete it by Monday afternoon, when it will go to the state printer. No governor in years has given so much thought to a message as Gov. Hughes has to his forthcoming one. Gov. Hughes' friends expect this message will add much to his availability as a presidential possibility. The governor was much perturbed because the New York republican county committee failed to endorse him, and this spurred the governor on to writing an annual message which would read a lesson to the present would-be political leaders of the republican state machine which will make them sit up and take notice.

Another Bloody Feud.

BRISTOL, Va., December 28.—A bloody feud has broken out in the mountains near the Virginia and Kentucky border line in the Pocket region as a result of the killing of Washington Polly by Morgan Hughes, another mountaineer, on Christmas day. It is said that both sides are heavily armed and several persons have already been wounded.

JAPANESE LABOR PROBLEM

BELIEVED A SATISFACTORY SOLUTION HAS BEEN REACHED.

Conferences Between Ambassador O'Brien and the Foreign Office in Tokio.

TOKIO, December 28.—A discussion of the Japanese government's program and method of limitation of emigration has begun between the foreign office and American Ambassador O'Brien.

Immediately after the departure of Canadian Minister of Labor Lomieux, Baron Chindé, vice minister of foreign affairs, drove to the American embassy from the station and discussed the American proposals and suggestions offered by the Japanese government for the help of the Japanese government. It is understood that the discussion was eminently satisfactory and that a memorandum in the form of a reply will soon be forthcoming.

Prodigal Son Buried.

Henry E. Adams of Pittsburgh, brother of Clark Adams, who, it is said, after a rather wild career went to work in the mine to earn money to take him to wealthy parents in the east, came here today, accompanied by John Frick of Shamokin, who married their sister. Adams had not seen his prodigal brother for years, and after viewing the blackened corpse, said he could not have identified it. The body was not in condition to ship, and was buried here.

It was learned today that the disaster

completely wiped out St. Mary's Benedictine Lodge, which had over 100 members. The lodge, which was in the hands of the fire, was completely destroyed.

Trains Crash in Dense Fog.

Five Trainmen Killed in Collision Near Lenox, Mich.

DETROIT, Mich., December 28.—Speeding through a dense fog at forty miles an hour, Grand Trunk passenger train No. 5, which left Port Huron shortly before 7 o'clock last night for this city, collided head-on with a double-header freight train one-half mile north of Lenox, Mich. Five trainmen met death, four being killed instantly, the fifth dying three hours later. All of the passengers escaped injury except a baby, who was only slightly hurt by being thrown out of its mother's arms and over a seat when the trains crashed.

The dead are Engineer Bennett

of the passenger, Engineer Bohowski of the freight engine, Fireman Boughner, Fireman Albert McCall and Switchman W. G. Taylor.

A NOTABLE DECISION.

Gotham Judge Decides Player's Ability Is Not an Asset.

NEW YORK, December 28.—A decision which will prove of considerable interest to lawyers and theatrical people has been filed by Justice Hough in the United States district court in the matter of the bankruptcy of Mrs. Leslie Carter-Payne. Judge Hough decided that the ability of a player is not an asset that can be touched by creditors or a receiver in bankruptcy. The receiver took over the scenery and properties of "Zaza" and "Du Barry," in which Mrs. Carter had been appearing, and demanded a share in the contracts under which she is to appear in "La Tosca" and "Fedora." Judge Hough ordered the return of the property taken and ruled that the receiver is not entitled to any interest in the contracts or in the salary she obtains for her work. It is said the case will be appealed.

DARR MINE SEARCHERS

THEIR WORK IS NOW PRACTICALLY COMPLETED.

JACOBS CREEK, Pa., December 28.—Explorations in the Darr mine of the Pittsburgh Coal Company were completed today, with the exception of the numerous falls of slate. A total of 220 bodies have been recovered from the main headings and entries. The number of bodies that will be found under the falls, while still problematical, is estimated at at least fifty.

Attention is being given today to the removal of the carcasses of the dead horses and mules. Coroner Wynn has fixed January 9 as the date of the inquest, which will be held at Smithton, Pa., two miles below this place. It is hoped to have the work practically completed early tomorrow.

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STARVING MOTHER DIES

SACRIFICED LAST CRUST TO SAVE HER CHILDREN.

Most Pitiful After-Christmas Story in All of Greater New York. Babies Are Happy.

NEW YORK, December 28.—Happy that her children, for whom she had sacrificed everything, even the last scraps of food, had at last found friends, Mrs. Phyllis Prisco died at a Brooklyn hospital of starvation.

Mrs. Prisco's husband has been dead some months, and with four little ones, the eldest four years, the youngest four months old, to care for she labored day and night until she was taken ill. Her pride prevented her from asking for aid, so she saved what bits of food she could obtain for her little ones while she gradually grew weaker and weaker from the lack of food. The last bits of crusts went for the children's Christmas dinner, and the next morning neighbors heard the crying of her little ones in the unfinished room in which the mother and children lived. They entered and found Mrs. Prisco dying and the children weak from the lack of food and from the cold.

Children Cared For.

The police removed the mother to a hospital and the Children's Society took care of the little ones. When the physicians found that all hope for the mother was gone the little ones were sent for and Mrs. Prisco was assured that they would be cared for.

They were happy again, for they had plenty of food and were being cared for by the Children's Society. Sam's eyes glittered at a furry horse and Baby Angelina clutched in her chubby hands a woolly lamb. The four boys were forgotten in their new-found happiness, and as they played with their treasures on the floor beside the hospital cot the tired woman realized that she was suffering no more. And as she watched them playing there the mother's heart was stilled and the mother's sacrifice was complete.

COLTON FUNDS FOUND

SECURITIES IN A VAULT IN SAN FRANCISCO.

SAN FRANCISCO, December 28.—Stocks and bonds, which are part of the missing Colton estate securities, were found Thursday in the California Safe Deposit and Trust Company vaults, it developed yesterday. It was the supposed disappearance of these securities that led to the indictment and arrest of J. Dalzell Brown and Attorney Walter Bartlett, officers of the bank and custodians of the securities.

The estate being in dispute, it was alleged that various chancellors had disappeared. Following the failure of the bank, Brown and Bartlett were arrested and indicted, and it was alleged at times that the securities had been sold in various cities around the world.

Thursday Custodian Cushman sent for Barclay Henley, an attorney, who represents the contestants of the will of Mrs. Colton, and Assistant District Attorney Cook, and informed them that the missing stocks had been found.

It is said that the finding of the stocks will have no effect on the prosecution of Brown and Bartlett, as they have not been accused of the embezzlement of the Colton estate, but of the disappearance of the securities. The missing bonds, valued at \$205,000, have not yet been found.

Attorney R. Golden Donaldson, local counsel for Helen Beatrice Margaret Sacher, not a member, being left to administer the affairs of the lodge, Rev. Father Kalmon Kovatz of McKeesport and the Austro-Hungarian consul at Pittsburgh have taken charge.

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TESTIMONY IS NOW IN

Both Sides Finish at the Caleb Powers Trial.

WITNESSES HEARD TODAY

Offer to Submit Case Without Argument Refused.

TIME FIXED FOR ATTORNEYS

Witness Called to Discredit Poer's Testimony Indicating That James Howard Did Not Kill Goebel.

LEXINGTON, Ky., December 28.—Before the sessions of court in the Caleb Powers case today all oral testimony of both sides will have been completed, and there will remain only the instructions to the jury, the arguments by the attorneys and the deliberations of the jury. The defense will make an effort to have the beginning of the arguments postponed until Monday morning, but Judge Morris has given an indication of his unwillingness to grant such a long delay in the proceedings. Nine hours has been allotted to each side. The defense will have four speeches, one each from Attorneys S. M. Wilson, William Smith, W. C. Owens and J. H. Sims, with the probability that Maj. Owens will make the closing argument on its side. The prosecution will have three speeches, the first being made by Attorney Victor F. Bradley, the next by Judge Ben Williams and the last and closing argument by Commonwealth's Attorney Robert B. Franklin.

It is believed that Attorney Franklin will begin speaking next Wednesday morning, but in the event Judge Morris grants the request of the defense and allows the postponement until Monday morning, it will be Wednesday evening before Attorney Franklin will get before the jury. The defense asked for twelve hours on each side. The Commonwealth insisted that six hours for each side would be an abundance of time. Judge Morris struck a compromise and granted nine hours.

Closing of the State.

In closing the case the Commonwealth was compelled to abandon its purpose to use a number of rebuttal witnesses, which included John Sheets, the former statehouse carpenter at Frankfort, and J. B. Matthews, formerly with Caleb Powers in the secretary's office at the state capitol. Several of the rebuttal witnesses failed to appear in time, and the defense, insisting upon the case proceeding, the Commonwealth had to close without them.

Believing the innocence of Powers has been proved, Judge Sims, chief counsel for the defense, submitted a proposition to the Commonwealth for Judge Morris to instruct the jury to find the case closed without argument on either side. The proposition was made to Judge Williams, who later communicated it to State Attorney Franklin, but Franklin refused to consider the proposition.

R. J. Sidwell was called by the Commonwealth to discredit Poer's testimony. Sidwell testified that Poer was with Howard when Goebel was shot, and that Howard could not have fired the shot. Sidwell also testified that Poer was with Howard when Goebel was shot, and that Howard could not have fired the shot.

NEW YEAR TIME.

Telegraphic Signals Sent Out by the Naval Observatory.

Four series of signals will be sent out, to mark the instant of the beginning of the new year in each of the four great standard time belts into which the United States is divided, namely, eastern, central, mountain and Pacific.

The first series will begin at 11:55 p.m., December 31, eastern time, and end exactly at midnight, the system followed being the same as that in use daily at noon. The second series, ending at 1 a.m. January 1, eastern time, is the mid-night signal for central time. The third, at 2 a.m. for mountain time, and the fourth, at 3 a.m., for Pacific time.

When it is midnight in Washington, Philadelphia and New York it is thus 11 p.m. at Chicago, St. Louis and New Orleans; 10 p.m. at San Francisco, Portland, Honolulu, and 5:30 p.m. at Tutuila. But still farther west, beyond the international date line, it is no longer December 31 but January 1, 2:30 p.m. at Guam and 1 p.m. at Manila. Similarly, it is already January 1 east of the United States, 1 a.m. at San Juan, about 1:20 a.m. on board of the battleships assuming that they are then about 600 miles east-southeast from Trinidad; and about 2 a.m. with the torpedo flotilla, down the coast of the equator.

The order in which most Americans

welcome the new year is shown by the following table, the hours stated being in eastern time. To reduce central time, take one hour earlier; mountain, two hours, and Pacific, three hours.

| | Eastern Standard Time |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Manila | 9:30 a.m., Dec. 31 |
| Tutuila | 8:30 a.m., Dec. 31 |
| Battlefield | 10:00 p.m., Dec. 31 |
| San Francisco | 11:00 p.m., Dec. 31 |
| San Juan | 1:00 a.m., Jan. 1 |
| Rocky Mountain region | 2:00 a.m., Jan. 1 |
| Pacific Coast states | 3:00 a.m., Jan. 1 |
| St. Louis | 4:00 a.m., Jan. 1 |
| Honolulu | 5:30 a.m., Jan. 1 |
| Tutuila | 6:30 a.m., Jan. 1 |

With those facts in mind, the telegraphic time signals sent out during the silent night hours by the Naval Observatory on New Year's eve gain additional significance and interest.

VIRGINIA RATE CASES.

Appeal to United States Supreme Court Granted by Pritchard.

RICHMOND, Va., December 28.—Decrees were received here today by the United States circuit court appeal from Judge Pritchard, granting an appeal to the United States Supreme Court in the Virginia passenger rate cases—the cases of the railways against the state corporation commission.

By agreement the two-cent rate remains in effect until the Supreme Court has been adjudicated by the Supreme Court.